

REMARKS

Claims 6-12, 14-16, 18-20, and 26-27 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 13, 17, and 21-25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer putting the application in condition for allowance. Claims 26-27 are added herein. Claims 10, 16, and 18-20 are amended herein. No new matter is being added.

This amendment is being made based on a telephone conference between the Examiner and the attorney listed below on August 11, 2006 in which the amendment to the claims were discussed. Agreement was reached about the language presented in this amendment, which would place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 10 and 20 are objected to in the Office Action. Accordingly, the Applicants have amended claims 10 and 20 to recite that the device to be monitored (in claim 10) and primary transistor (in claim 20) comprises a field effect transistor. Thereafter, claims 26 and 27 are newly added to be respectively dependent upon claims 10 and 20 and to recite that "said field effect transistor comprises any of a diode, a wire, a via, a resistor, an inductor, and a capacitor." During the aforementioned telephone conference, the Examiner agreed that such a recitation of the claimed language would clarify and ambiguities that may exist. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 10 and 20 be withdrawn.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Obuchi (JP 2003142679). Claims 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Office Action indicates would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this situation, independent claim 16 is the base claim, and Applicants have amended claim 16 to include the limitations of claim 17 (now cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer). Moreover, claims 18-19 have been amended

to change their dependency to claim 16. As such, claim 16 is patentable over Obuchi (JP 2003142679). Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 17-19 be withdrawn and that the rejection to claim 16 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 6-12, 14-16, 18-20, and 26-27, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,

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